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FACTS ABOUT CENTRAL MINNESOTA FARMS

Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration

- OFFICIAL NAME: Central Minnesota Farms
- LOCATION: In Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Pope, Renville, Stearns, and Wright Counties, central Minnesota. More than half the farms are in Meeker County. Project Headquarters: Litchfield, Minnesota.
- HISTORY OF PROJECT: Initiated by Resettlement Administration. The project is a consolidation of former projects, Wilmar, Brainerd, Central Minnesota and Fergus Falls. Preliminary approval, November 21, 1935. Final approval, June 5, 1936.
- PURPOSE OF PROJECT: This infiltration project is designed to establish low-income families on productive farms near communities with opportunities for economic and social development.
- PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project area of 15,377 acres is adapted to dairying, stock-raising and grain production. According to estimates of the Division of Soils of the University of Minnesota, the soils of the region are classed as "excellent or good". Approximately 110 farms of varying sizes are planned for the raising of poultry, hogs, and dairy cows, and for the production of garden stuffs and such crops as corn, barley, oats, alfalfa, and timothy. The families will raise most of their food needs. Since there are already 13 co-operative creameries, 4 co-operative elevators, and 5 co-operative livestock shipping associations in Meeker County, no co-operative facilities are planned.
- No new houses have been built. Existing houses and out-buildings have been repaired and remodeled, and some barns, poultry houses, and milk houses have been built.
- Some of the houses are equipped for electricity. No new sanitary facilities are planned. The water supply will be furnished by wells.
- Adequate walks and roads are already available.
- There are community center buildings in the project area and other community facilities.

HOMESTEADERS: The families located on the project were selected from four groups. Homesteaders belonged to the group of families displaced by purchases of submarginal lands for land use adjustment in the St. Croix area; families dispossessed of their farms who were self-supporting before the depression; young married couples with agricultural experience; and progressive tenant families who needed credit and encouragement to become farm owners. Living on the project, the families will have access to schools, churches, agricultural organizations and recreational gatherings. Subsistence farming and good market outlets will help them to become self-supporting.

